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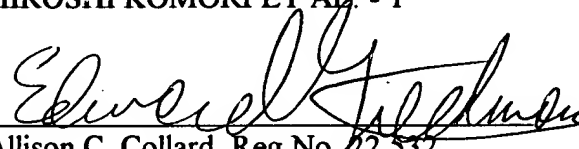
temperature exhibits the minimum value. When the value of $\text{SrO}/(\text{SrO}+\text{BaO})$ becomes greater than 0.37, strontium silicate is deposited in the first crystalline phase and the liquid temperature rises. Even when the value of $\text{SrO}/(\text{SrO}+\text{BaO})$ becomes smaller than 0.37 on the contrary, barium disilicate is deposited in the first crystalline phase and the liquidus temperature rises. \downarrow

A marked-up version of the prior pending paragraph is attached as Exhibit A.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to correct some errors present in the original Japanese text. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Exhibit A

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 9, 2001.


Ingrid Mittendorf

EXHIBIT A

Marked-up Version of Prior Pending Paragraphs Showing the Changes Made

On Page 4, for the last full paragraph, please substitute the following paragraph:

--Each of MgO and CaO is a component serving to facilitate melting of the glass and to adjust the coefficient of thermal expansion and the viscosity. However, if the content is greater than 3%, the glass is easily devitrified and the liquidus temperature rises so that the formation becomes difficult. Preferably, the content of $[Al_2O_3]$ each of MgO and CaO is not greater than 2%.--

On Page 11, for the first full paragraph, please substitute the following paragraph:

--When the value of $SrO / (SrO + BaO)$ is equal to 0.37, the first crystalline phase contains two kinds of crystals including strontium silicate and barium disilicate and the liquidus temperature exhibits the minimum value. When the value of $SrO / (SrO + BaO)$ becomes greater than 0.37, strontium silicate is deposited in the first crystalline phase and the liquid temperature rises. Even when the value of $SrO / (SrO + BaO)$ becomes smaller than 0.37 on the contrary, barium disilicate is deposited in the first crystalline phase and the liquidus temperature rises.--